AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in relation to the present patent application.

Listing of the Claims

1. (currently amended) A torch, comprising:

a torch butt;

a valve assembly removable from and positionable in the torch butt in two mutually opposed positions, and operable to control a first flow of a fluid through the torch butt,

a lever selectively securable to pivot about a first portion of the torch butt and a second portion of the torch butt, wherein the second portion is disposed on the torch butt opposite the first portion; and

wherein the valve assembly is operable to enable the lever to operate the valve assembly with the lever selected to pivot about the first portion of the torch butt when the valve assembly is positioned in a first position and the second portion of the torch butt when the valve assembly is positioned in a second, mutually opposed position.

2. (currently amended) The torch recited in claim 1, wherein the lever is secured to the torch butt ~~valve assembly is securable to the torch butt in a first orientation relative to the torch butt and in a second orientation relative to the torch butt, the second orientation being inverted relative to the first orientation~~.

3. (currently amended) The torch recited in claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein the valve assembly comprises a seat and the torch butt comprises a first seating surface for sealing engagement with the seat when the valve assembly is disposed in the first position ~~orientation~~ and a second seating surface for sealing engagement with the seat when the valve assembly is disposed in the second position ~~orientation~~.

4. (original) The torch as recited in claim 1, wherein the first portion of the torch butt and the second portion of the torch butt are disposed proximate to the rear of the torch butt.

5. (original) The torch as recited in claim 1, wherein the torch butt comprises a second valve assembly operable to control a second flow of the fluid through the torch butt.

6. (original) The torch as recited in claim 5, wherein the second valve assembly comprises a throttle valve.

7. (original) The torch as recited in claim 1, comprising a handle coupleable to the torch butt, wherein the handle has a skull-shaped cross section uniform along a length of the handle.

8. (original) The torch as recited in claim 1, comprising a handle coupleable to the torch butt, wherein the handle has an upper radius and a lower radius that are uniform along a length of the handle.

9-13. (cancelled)

14. (original) A torch, comprising:

a valve assembly; and

a torch butt comprising a passageway for receiving the valve assembly,

wherein the valve assembly is selectively securable to the torch butt in a first orientation and a second orientation relative to the torch butt, the second orientation being inverted relative to the first orientation.

15. (original) The torch as recited in claim 14, wherein the passageway defines a first seating surface and a second seating surface for sealing engagement with the valve assembly, the first and second seating surfaces being oriented in opposite directions.

16. (original) The torch as recited in claim 14, comprising a first portion and a second portion, wherein the first and second portions are operable to pivotally secure a valve-operating lever to the torch butt, wherein the first portion and the second portion are disposed on opposite rear positions of the torch butt.

17. (original) The torch as recited in claim 16, wherein the valve assembly is oriented in the first orientation to enable the valve-operating lever to operate the valve assembly when secured to the first portion of the torch butt.

18. (original) The torch as recited in claim 17, wherein the valve assembly is oriented in the second orientation to enable the valve-operating lever to operate the valve assembly when secured to the second portion of the torch butt.

19. (original) The torch as recited in claim 16, wherein the first portion and the second portion comprise a hole in the torch member.

20. (original) The torch as recited in claim 14, comprising:

an inlet for receiving a first fluid into the torch butt; and

a first passageway that couples the inlet to the valve assembly when the valve assembly is oriented in the first orientation; and

a second passageway that couples the inlet to the valve assembly when the valve assembly is oriented in the second orientation.

21. (original) The torch as recited in claim 20, comprising a first outlet coupled to the inlet through the valve assembly.

22. (original) The torch as recited in claim 20, comprising a second outlet coupled to the inlet via a bypass around the valve assembly.

23. (original) The torch as recited in claim 20, comprising a third outlet coupled to a second inlet for receiving a second fluid.

24-30. (cancelled)

31. (original) A torch, comprising:

means for selectively securing a cutting oxygen valve assembly within a torch butt in a first and a second orientation relative to the torch, the second orientation being inverted relative to the first orientation; and

means for pivotally securing a lever on opposite sides of the torch to enable the lever to operate the cutting oxygen valve assembly in the first and the second orientation

32-35. (cancelled)

36. (new) A torch comprising:

a valve body having a first inlet for receiving fuel and a second inlet for receiving a fluid;

a valve assembly disposed in the valve body and including a valve operable to control a flow of the fluid through the valve body, wherein the valve assembly is removable from and operably positionable in the valve body in two mutually opposed positions; and

a lever selectively securable to a first portion of the valve body and a second portion of the valve body opposite the first portion.

37. (new) The torch as recited in claim 36, wherein actuation of the valve in a direction askew to a longitudinal axis of the torch transitions the valve assembly between open and closed configurations.

38. (new) The torch as recited in claim 36, wherein the second inlet is in fluid communication with first and second passageways extending through the valve body, and wherein the valve assembly selectively controls the flow of fluid through the first passageway when in the first position and selectively controls the flow of fluid through the second passageway when in the second position.

39. (new) The torch as recited in claim 36, wherein the second inlet is configured to receive pressurized oxygen.

40. (new) The torch as recited in claim 36, wherein the torch body includes a passageway located downstream of the valve assembly and extending in a direction askew to a longitudinal axis of the torch.